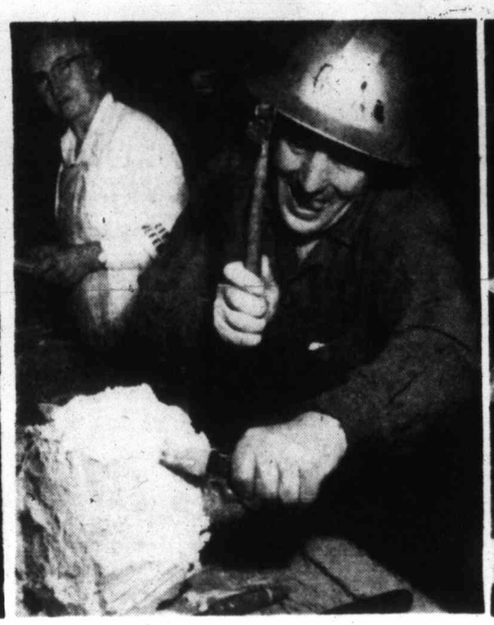
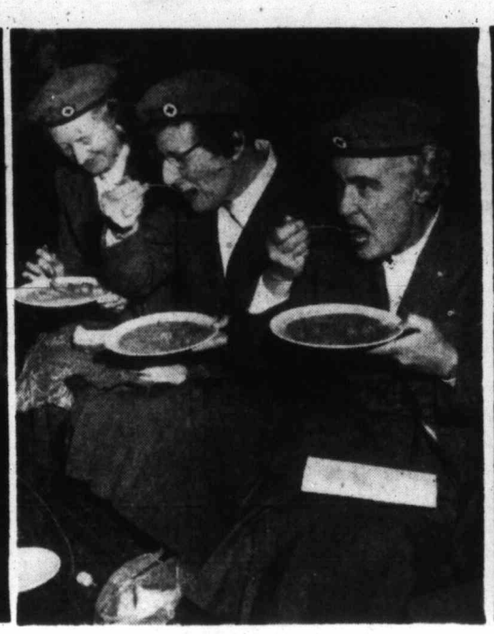
Civil defence warden, Mrs. Dorothy Eddy of Milnes Landing, comforts two-year-old evacuee Mary Anwyll, 413 Langford.



Frozen ice cream, too hard to scoop, is chopped apart with hammer and butcher knife wielded by warden James H. Martin of Sooke.



Red Cross workers taking time out for "stew" lunch are Mrs. Nora Foster, right; Miss Winifred Dawson-Thomas and Miss Amy Lowe.

Evacuees waiting to be fed are Mrs. F. W. Holland, right, S. M. Hale, Mrs. Josephine Hale, Mrs. Jessie Stewart and Mrs. Catherine Kelman.

Sidney Licence Sale Brings In $34,000

Sale of motor vehicle licences, this year available for the first time at the Sidney village office, exceeded $34,000 to the end of February, Municipal Clerk A. W. Sharp reported.

Included were 1,200 private vehicle licences, and 300 commercial.

Not the Answer

Edgelow Raps Crystal Plan

Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow said last night he was opposed to the suggestion that the city acquire and run the Crystal Garden to cut administration costs on an adjoining civic auditorium.

"I don't think this is the answer to the problem of getting an auditorium for Victoria," he said.

Earlier, former alderman Brent Murdoch said he would like to see the city acquire the Garden, which is built on city property leased to the CPR, preferably before the existing 20-year lease expires on Jan. 1, 1965.

Mr. Murdoch said administration costs on the auditorium, which could be built with assistance of a provincial grant, would be reduced by the revenue-producing Garden operation.

Ald. Edgelow said: "I don't want to be unduly critical of Mr. Murdoch, who no doubt has made a study. But it's my belief that council shouldn't get into operation of the Crystal Garden.

"We are having enough trouble with the CPR leaving Victoria, as it is, without encouraging it further by taking over any company operations."

Ald. Edgelow said when the city does build an auditorium, a central location will likely be chosen, possibly in the vicinity of the suggested site. He is chairman of a trust committee holding $12,500 turned over by the Greater Victoria Centennial Committee for construction of an auditorium.

Central Saanich Council Told:

'Don't Sell Pump —You Don't Own It'

Central Saanich council nearly did it again.

Memories of the long-drawn dispute between the municipality and former Reeve Sydney Pickles over ownership of a fire truck were revived when the council received a letter from Coal Island, Ltd., offering $105 for a trailer with engine and pump, to be used for fire protection on the island.

Council engaged in a brief discussion of the value of the equipment before Mr. Pickles, who was the lone spectator at the meeting, rose and asked permission to speak.

"You do not own a trailer pump, gentlemen," he told the council. "It was loaned to the municipality by Victoria fire department to help us get our volunteer department started. It still belongs to them."

Council hastily decided to find out the wishes of the owner of the trailer before attempting to sell it.

Pickles Protests Afternoon Meetings

Holding of afternoon meetings by Central Saanich council was protested last week by Sydney Pickles, former reeve of the municipality.

"Most of our ratepayers work during the day," Mr. Pickles told the council," and are thus prevented from attending the meetings."

"Until recently they have all been in the evening." Reeve H. R. Brown told him, "and we rarely ever had more than two people present."

Mr. Pickles insisted that whether anyone attended or not, the opportunity to do so should be provided.

"Many are indignant and unhappy about the afternoon meetings," he said. "And it is the duty of the council to consider the wishes of the ratepayers first."

"You're the only objector we've had," the reeve retorted.

Huge Civil Defence Exercise

500 'Refugees' Stream From 'Stricken' City

★ ★ ★

We Can Handle 10,000 In Crisis, Says Sooke

★ ★ ★

The small community of Sooke, during the largest civil defence mass evacuation ever conducted in British Columbia, yesterday proved it can take care of "refugees" from Victoria.

Not only was "Operation Friendship" — evacuation of some 400 to 500 Victoria West residents — considered a success by civil defence officials, but Sooke residents later claimed they could take care of 10,000 Victorians in time of emergency.

None of the evacuees, who "fled" their homes between 9.30 and 10 a.m., were heard to say they gave any thought during the 45-minute ride to Sooke that their families or homes really could have been wiped out by an enemy aerial attack.

Many said they considered it a "holiday" from their everyday routines, despite such grim reminders as the posting of RCMP and civil defence men at all main intersections along the route to direct traffic, and the confusion created by hundreds of evacuees swarming into the welfare centre (Sooke Community Hall) and milling about while waiting for instructions.

In the practice operation, all evacuees registered with the Red Cross, separated families were reunited, clothing was issued to the needy, all were fed a stew lunch and then "billeted" to various Sooke homes.

Two casualties were reported, a two-year-old girl who spilled hot stew on her wrist and one of the 20 kitchen helpers who cut her finger.

Among the day's crises were a query if toothpicks were to be served, and ice cream so hard it had to be chopped apart with a hammer and a butcher knife.

Operation Friendship was a success, civil defence officials said, but there were "bugs" in the plan which will have to be overcome in the future.

Provincial civil defence coordinator Brig. G. A. McCarter said: "In eight years of watching demonstrations of this kind, this is the best I've seen."

There would be no ice cream or stew if the "real thing" ever comes along, he warned. "Evacuees are expected to provide their own survival rations for seven days."

More portable "loud-hailers" are needed to control the movement of so many people inside the welfare centre, he said. Only two were available yesterday and both came from his office, Brig. McCarter said.

Welfare workers are now very conscious of the need for keeping children occupied, he added. "Child care is a vital and important consideration. Some children might arrive here without their parents," he said.

Greater Victoria target area civil defence director, Commodore Val Godfrey, said, "We did better than we expected, despite a slight holdup in registration." He wanted to thank everyone concerned in any way with the operation.

Sooke civil defence officer P. W. de P. Taylor said, "We cou'd easily handle 10,000 evacuees in Sooke for several days. We feed that many every July on All-Sooke Day; and we have three welfare centres, two schools and a community hall that could be put in use."

"This is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when you have a good organization," Mayor Percy Scurrah said. "In case anything does happen, it's extremely important we have experience of this type."

Around the Island

Roads, Chamber Rally Topic

Delegates from both east and west coast centres will meet at Campbell River next week for the annual meeting of the Vancouver Island Associated Chambers of Commerce.

A banquet is to be held on Tuesday evening, with members of the local chamber acting as host, will precede Wednesday and Thursday's business sessions.

Chief among the topics to be discussed, is the extension of the Island Highway from its present terminus at Kelsey Bay to the north end of the Island. Status of access roads, built principally by logging companies, to the Island's west coast, will also be considered.

Delegates from the Victoria Chamber will be president Conway Parrott, secretary J. R. Coppinger and Pat Dunn. Sidney will be represented by James Eaton and E. J. McLoughlin.

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NANAIMO—Frank Ney was elected president of Nanaimo Toastmasters' Club. Other officers: Ted Wollard and Ken Guest, vice-presidents; William Coats, secretary; Dr. Tom Cosgrove, treasurer; Lou Gueho, sergeant-at-arms.

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PORT ALBERNI—A youth, Hardial Singh, transferred to adult court here Saturday morning, pleaded guilty to theft of a tire and wheel and to possession of hub caps which had been stolen. He was fined $100 on each charge.

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NANAIMO — Special meeting of Nanaimo and District Labor Council has been called for 1.30 p.m. today to discuss the new labor legislation — "Bill 43." The meeting will be held at Parksville.

DUNCAN — The International Woodworkers of America, Duncan Local 1-80, has dispatched a telegram to Davie Fulton, minister of justice, Ottawa, asking the minister to intervene in Newfoundland in connection with the IWA strike.

The telegram says the union here "has been profoundly shocked and disturbed to learn that the RCMP are being used to assist strikebreakers going through a legitimate picket line, and we protest to you most energetically and emphatically.

"We are sure you must agree that it is entirely incompatible with the tradition of the RCMP and indeed of all the Canadian people to permit the police to provoke violence in a legitimate strike," the telegram states.

"You surely must realize that the root of the problem in Newfoundland is that action of the Smallwood government and we believe that you must agree that the type of legislation just introduced in that province, violating as it does the basic freedoms of the Canadian people, and creating the most dangerous type of situation imaginable."

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By day Al Addison is a real estate salesman, by night a cowboy singer with his own 15-minute radio program, and when he can he works the Big Flame coal mine.

The Big Flame is 800 feet of tunnels starting from a portal about 400 feet high on the west side of a timbered ridge a few miles south of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

Addison bought the 30-year-old workings three years ago from Seattle interests.

He says he will never make a fortune with the mine, but he manages to draw out 15 or 20 tons of coal a week which he sells in Nanaimo for $20 a ton.

"When I want extra money I go and draw out some coal. I've got a bankful of money down that hole," he said.

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PORT ALBERNI — Funeral services were held at All Saints' Church, Alberni, yesterday for Ghent Davis, a well-known lawyer who had lived at Sproat Lake since his retirement in 1952.

Mr. Davis was born in Vancouver 68 years ago. He died Friday in West Coast General Hospital. At the time of his death he was president of Sproat Lake Ratepayers' Association.

He leaves his wife, Frances, at the residence on Lake Shore Road; two sons, Irwin, Vancouver, and Frederick, New Orleans; one sister, Mrs. S. S. Dickson, California.

The Rev. A. P. Horsfield conducted services. Cremation followed.

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NANAIMO—First the Civic Properties and Recreation protested; now the Fish and Game Club here has come out against Recreation Minister Earle Westwood and his brother, Frank, who have obtained a permit to pump 60,000,000 gallons of water a year from the Millstone River.

The water, required for irrigational purposes, would be taken from the river between April 1 and June 30.

Game club members are going to determine whether the extent of the draw from the river would harm fish life.

CAMPBELL RIVER — Final agreement has been reached between the village commissioners and Warner Holdings for the old village hall property on St. Ann's Road and work on a shopping centre is scheduled to start soon.

The new centre will include a new Safeway store and a bank as well as other businesses.

Tenders are also being called at the end of this month for construction of a new village hall on hillside property on Ninth Avenue.

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Greatly improved service will result from Gabriola Island's Monday morning switchover to an automatic telephone system, say B.C. Telephone Company officials.

Dial tone, new telephone numbers and selective ringing for party line subscribers are some of the outstanding changes.

New telephone numbers allocated to all subscribers have been listed in a special directory. All numbers consist of two letters and five figures beginning with the prefix CHurchill 7.

No commercial facilities being available to Gabriola Island residents, inquiries may be made in the Nanaimo telephone building, or by dialling "O" (operator) and asking for Zenith 8000 — a "no charge" call.

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QUALICUM BEACH — Bruce Welch was elected president of the Qualicum Beach Rotary Club at a recent meeting. Directors elected are Edward MacMillan, George Nelson, Jim Garfat, Walter Houston, Roy Parker and David Sawyer.

Easter Food Stall Planned for Needy

A special Easter surplus food stall for needy families will be held Saturday, starting at 1 p.m., in the City Public Market.

Mrs. E. E. Harper, convener of the stall, said yesterday, "A lot of people on unemployment insurance are running out and they still haven't found work. This makes the demand on us very heavy. We would appreciate food of all kinds, and all kinds of it."

Persons wishing to donate food are asked to contact Mrs. Harper at GRanite 4-1750.

Fund Drive

No Knockers From Jubilee

Royal Jubilee Hospital canvassers won't go knocking on doors in the Greater Victoria area next month for funds to help build a $2,500,000 hospital wing.

Instead, everyone who has already contributed to the campaign, which seeks to raise $410,000 from public donations by April 30, will receive a letter appealing for contributions. The letter will be followed by a phone call.

Spokesman for the campaign organizers said: "We estimated there have been six door-to-door appeals in Greater Victoria so far this year. This would have been the seventh. We feel people are getting a little tired of that approach."

Some 400 woman canvassers will each be responsible for hand addressing about 80 envelopes, which will be sent with the letter appealing for contributions in a sealed envelope by first-class mail. Within a few days the canvasser will follow up her letter with a personal phone call.

All those who have contributed by the time the general public appeal starts around the middle of April will have their names taken off this list.

Providing it can raise the $410,000, Royal Jubilee Hospital will receive grants amounting to more than $2,000,000 from federal, provincial and municipal governments for construction of the new wing. The commercial campaign starts Monday.

Two-Day, Class C Show

Combine Four Fairs Luxton Will Suggest

Officials of the Luxton Fall Fair are attempting to combine other, local fall fairs into one compact organization to present a two-day, class C fair, on the Luxton fair grounds.

Luxton officials are canvassing residents of Langford, Colwood and Sooke, inviting members of the fall fair committees from those areas to attend an organizational meeting to be held at Luxton at 8 p.m. Monday.

Stanley Hiscock, manager of the Luxton fair, said yesterday Luxton fair expanded to a class C exhibition last year, for the first time. "We hope to put on another class C fair this year if the other districts come in," he said.

"We also hope to increase the participation of 4-H clubs, to get young men and women interested."

Mr. Hiscock said he had spoken about the plan to an official of the B.C. Fairs Association and received encouragement for the project.

Traps Won't Operate At Sooke This Year

For the second time in 55 years the Sooke fish traps will not be in operation this year. They are the only salt water fish traps in Canada.

Capt. Joe Collins, plant manager, said the main reason for suspending operations was "shortage of fishing time" resulting from the fisheries conservation program.

He said an unusually small run of sockeye and pinks has been predicted for this year.

He said the company feels conservation measures are going to do a lot of good in the future. Catches in recent years dwindled steadily as more fishing vessels crowded into the area.

Capt. Collins estimated last year as many as 100 seiners and 300 gillnetters fished in the area.

Sooke fish traps operated continuously from 1904 until 1956, when operations were suspended for reorganization.